

From: Michael D. Kersey
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 2:12pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I am opposed to the settlement with Microsoft.

Microsoft has displayed monopolistic business practices far longer than it is generally acknowledged. a story I am familiar with is a case in point:

Circa 1980, I knew a Rice University professor who, with with several other professors, had a company called "Clear Lake Software". They had written specialized software (numerical processing) for the Apple MacIntosh computer and were successfully selling it as a software package. Microsoft expressed an interest in buying the product and sent lawyers to "negotiate" with the professors.

There was no negotiation: the lawyers offered them a fixed dollar amount for all rights to the software. When the professors, who wanted a better price, asked what would happen if they didn't sell, the lawyers told them that Microsoft would establish a team of programmers and duplicate the specialized software within a short period, eliminating Clear Lake Software's product niche from the marketplace. The professors accepted the Microsoft offer, needless to say.

If Microsoft acted this way with a company composed of a few Rice University professors, I cannot imagine how they would act against a more significant challenge in the marketplace.

Microsoft must be dismantled.

Sincerely,
Michael D. Kersey